Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Under the section entitled "*Description of the Preferred Embodiment*," paragraph 3, please make the following amendments:

To filter ~~contaminates~~contaminants from the fluid, the filter element 20 provides a filter media 21 fabricated from a pleated porous paper material. The filter media 21 encircles a central filter tube 26, and a fuel impervious plastic cover 28 encircles the outer diameter of the filter media 21. A plurality of apertures 30 extend through the plastic cover 28 in a lower portion of the filter element 20. The apertures 30 in the plastic cover 28 allow fuel to pass through the plastic cover 28 to wet the filter media 21. The ends of the plastic cover 28 and the filter media 21 are contained by top and bottom end caps 32, 34, respectively. The top and bottom end caps 32, 34 are sealed to the edges of the plastic cover 28 and filter element 20 to preclude any possible leak at the ends of the filter element 20. A flexible seal 36 is provided on the bottom end cap 34 of the filter element 20 to create a seal between the central filter tube 26 and an inner core 38 of the filter element 20 to ~~assure~~ensure that unfiltered fluid does not leak into or escape through the fluid outlet 22. The filter media 21 is preferably pleated or concentrically wound but may also be arranged in any of the ways known to one familiar with filtration construction so as to direct the fluid through the filter element 20. In addition, the filter element 20 may be fabricated from a hydrophobic filter material to filter out water from the fluid.

Under the section entitled "*Description of the Preferred Embodiment*," paragraph 4, please make the following amendments:

To maintain or relieve the pressure in the upper filter chamber 16 of the housing 12, the relief valve 24 is mounted in the top end cap 32 of the filter element 20, as seen in Figs. 1-4 and 8. The top end cap 32 is fabricated from a thin metallic material having a shape complementary to the top of the filter element 20. The top end cap 32 has a substantially circular configuration with side walls 40 that extend downward from its periphery to sealingly connect to and cover the top of the filter media 21. The top end cap 32 also has a centrally located recessed portion which is received by and complementarily engages the inner core 38 of the filter element 20. A compression spring 46 is seated underneath the bottom end cap 34. A threaded cap 48 threadingly engages a threaded aperture 50 provided in the upper chamber 16 and forces the filter element 20 against the compression spring 46 to maintain the position of the filter element 20. The threaded cap 48 may also be removed to vent the fluid filter assembly 10 in order to drain the fluid from the fluid filter assembly 10. The threaded cap 48 may also be removed to prime the fluid filter assembly 10 by pouring fluid through the aperture 50 and into the fluid filter assembly 10 prior to threading the cap 48 back into the housing 12.

Under the section entitled "*Description of the Preferred Embodiment*," paragraph 10, please make the following amendments:

When the ~~fuel~~filter media 21 is clean, the fuel level rises to the level at which the diameters of the upper chamber 16 change sizes, i.e. up to volume 2 55, as the air in volume 3 57 is compressed into volumes 2 55 and 1 53. This occurs because the volume of air must reach a certain level of pressure to prevent the fluid level from rising to the top of the upper chamber 16. When the filter element 20 is clean, the system operates at substantially 116 psi while the volume of air is substantially 3.65 cubic inches. As the filter media 21 begins to clog, the fuel level rises and begins to

compress the air in volumes 1 53 and 2 55. Since the pressure and volume are determined by PV=nRT, wherein nRT is essentially constant, we know that $P_1V_1=P_2V_2$, wherein P_1V_1 is the pressure and volume when the filter element 20 is clean, and P_2V_2 is the pressure and volume when the filter element 20 is clogged. When the filter element 20 is clogged, the pressure rises to substantially 188 psi, and the volume is substantially 2.25 cubic inches. When the pressure within volumes 1 and 2 exceeds a predetermined level approximate to that of substantially 188 psi, the relief valve 24 opens, thereby allowing air to escape through the relief valve 24 and allowing the fluid level to rise. The relief valve 24 immediately closes upon the pressure level dropping below the predetermined pressure level.

Under the section entitled "*Description of the Preferred Embodiment*," paragraph 14, please make the following amendments:

Again, when the filter media 21 is clean, the oil level will start at a level approximating a point at which the inner diameter of the upper chamber 16 changes size thereby forcing the air to compress from volumes 3 57 to volumes 1 53 and 2 55. Thus, when the filter element 20 is clean, the system pressure is substantially 60 psi, and the volume is substantially 4.06 cubic inches. As the filter element 20 begins to clog, the fluid level will rise, thereby compressing the volume of air in the upper chamber 16. When the filter element 20 is clogged, the pressure ~~raises~~rises to substantially 80 psi, and the volume is reduced to substantially 3.04 cubic inches. When the pressure level within the upper chamber 16 exceeds a predetermined level, such as substantially 80 psi, the relief valve 24 will open, thereby allowing some of the trapped air to escape. The relief valve 24 will immediately close upon the pressure level dropping below the predetermined level.